

Message Text

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54

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 NEA-09 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01

SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 NIC-01 ACDA-10 ISO-00 /102 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4177

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

GUMJDM/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 5325

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USLO PEKING

US MISSION GENEVA 1527

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS SAIGON 3556

DEPT PASS IBS/NCA

NEW DELHI PASS LINDAHL

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, MMOL, MPOL, VN, VS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN CORRESPONDENT REPORTS ON HANOI WAR AID
TO SOUTH

1. WE BELIEVE FOLLOWING FBIS ITEM WILL BE OF USE TO ADDRESSEES
IN CLARIFYING NATURE OF CONFLICT IN VIETNAM.

2. BEGIN TEXT: SYDNEY DOMESTIC SERVICES IN ENGLISH 0000 GMT
26 MARCH 75.

3 (TEXT) IN INDOCHINA, AS THE TROOPS FROM THE SOUTH PULL OUT
OF THE ANCIENT IMPERIAL CAPITAL OF HUE, COMMUNIST FORCES FROM
THE NORTH STRENGTHEN THEIR STRANGLEHOLD ON THE 11 OF SOUTH
VIETNAM'S 44 PROVINCES THEY NOW CONTROL AND THE OFFENSIVE WON'T
BE ENDING IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. PAUL RAFFAELE REPORTS
FROM THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CAPITAL OF HANOI THIS MORNING THAT
HUGE AMOUNTS OF MILITARY AID ARE BEING MOVED DOWN INTO THE SOUTH
TO SUPPORT THE THRUST TOWARD SAIGON.

4. (BEGIN RECORDING) HERE IN HANOI THE ATMOSPHERE IS CALM,
EVEN PEACEFUL, AND IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE THAT JUST A FEW KILOMETERS
AWAY HIGHWAY 1 LEADING FROM HANOI TO THE 17TH PARALLEL IS
SOLIDLY PACKED WITH MILITARY VEHICLES TRANSPORTING ARMS AND
AMMUNITION TO THE SOUTH. ACCORDING TO INFORMED FOREIGN SOURCES
HERE, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE BARRED ALL CIVILIAN TRAFFIC FROM
USING HIGHWAY 1 UNTIL 15 APRIL TO FACILITATE THE SMOOTH FLOW OF
MASSIVE QUANTITIES OF MILITARY AID TO THE VIET CONG IN THE SOUTH.
FOREIGN TRAVELERS WHO WERE SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL TO DESTINATIONS
NEAR THE 17TH PARALLEL HAD THEIR TRAVEL PERMITS CANCELLED LAST
WEEK AND THEY WERE REQUESTED TO POSTPONE THEIR PLANS TO BEYOND
15 APRIL.

5. THE STRONGEST PROOF IN FACT THAT NORTH VIETNAM IS NOW INVOLVED
IN A GIGANTIC RESUPPLY MISSION TO THE VIET CONG COMES
FROM A FOREIGN EXPERT WHO WAS THE LAST FOREIGN CIVILIAN TO TRAVEL
FROM THE VIET CONG CAPITAL OF QUANG TRI TO HANOI BEFORE THE
BAN ON TRAVEL CAME INTO EFFECT. HE REPORTS THAT THE ROAD WAS
PACKED SOLIDLY WITH MILITARY VEHICLES RUSHING MILITARY AID TO
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THE FRONT IN SOUTH VIETNAM. HE SAW STRUCKS CARRYING EVERYTHING
FROM SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION TO SOPHISTICATED SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES.

6. CERTAINLY, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MAKE NO SECRET OF THE FACT
THAT THEY ARE SUPPLYING THE VIET CONG AND ALSO THE CAMBODIAN
INSURGENTS WITH MASSIVE QUANTITIES OF MILITARY AID, AND THEY
SAY THEY WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPLY SUCH AID FOR YEARS IF NECESSARY
UNTIL THE LON NOL REGIME IN CAMBODIA AND PRESIDENT THIEU IN

SOUTH VIETNAM ARE DEFEATED.

7. NORTH VIETNAM SUPPLIES THE VIET CONG AND THE CAMBODIAN INSURGENTS ALONG WELL ESTABLISHED SUPPLY ROUTES IN LAOS, CAMBODIA, AND THE SOUTH OF NORTH VIETNAM. I HAD HOPED TO TRAVEL TO HISTORIC DIEN BIEN PHU ON THIS CURRENT TRIP TO NORTH VIETNAM BUT PERMISSION WAS DENIED AND A LONG-TIME RESIDENT HERE IN HANOI TOLD ME THAT DIEN BIEN PHU IS NOW THE NORTH VIETNAMESE JUNCTION FOR TWO MAIN HIGHWAYS CONNECTING CHINA WITH LAOS AND DOWN WHICH FLOW SUBSTANTIAL CHINESE MILITARY AID FOR THE INSURGENT FORCES.

8. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE IN HANOI ALSO TELL ME THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE LEADERS HAVE A REAL FEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL AGAIN BEGIN BOMBING SUPPLY ROUTES IN NORTH VIETNAM DESPITE THEIR BELIEF THAT AMERICAN DOMESTIC OPINION OPPOSES THE RESUMPTION OF BOMBING. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE LEADERS BELIEVE A RESUMPTION OF BOMBING IN THE NORTH IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE PERILOUS POSITION OF THE LON NOL REGIME AND BECAUSE OF THE RENEWED FIGHTING IN SOUTH VIETNAM'S CENTRAL HIGHLANDS. (END RECORDING).
END TEXT.
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